



Annual Report

2024

promoting awareness
& involvement in
river & stream
conservation since 1989

A Summary of Team Activities



Stream Team #6469 in June of 2024 in the Blue River Watershed in Kansas City, Missouri picking up litter.



Stream Teams #6096, #6691, & #6708 in the spring of 2024 in the Mississippi River Watershed in North County of Saint Louis, Missouri picking up litter.



Stream Team #5254 in May of 2024 on Branch Creek in Fulton, Missouri picking up litter.

Program volunteers reported over **95,000** hours of volunteer time to our stream resources. We gained **127** new Stream Teams, adding to our roster of over **6,854** Teams statewide. Here are some highlights from 2024:

- ◆ **504** tons of trash were removed from Missouri's rivers and streams
- ◆ **398** water quality monitoring trips were completed
- ◆ **1,303** trees were planted
- ◆ Over **19,879** volunteers participated
- ◆ Over **\$3 million** worth of volunteer labor was dedicated

Stash Your Trash

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. There were **159** float outfitters throughout the state participating in the Stash Your Trash Program in 2024; **106** of them offered discounts to Stream Team volunteers in the Stream Team [Float Outfitters Discount Directory](#).

More than **334,000** red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. An additional **27,996** red mesh bags, **5,541** green mesh bags, and **5,940** blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams for their cleanup efforts.

Missouri Stream Team Awards

The Stream Team Ambassador Awards recognize volunteer accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals of education, stewardship, and advocacy, as well as water quality monitoring. The 2024 recipients for activities conducted in 2023 were:

- ◆ **Stewardship:** Thomas & Christine Guernsey
Stream Teams #5216, #5925, #6405
- ◆ **Education:** John Nies
Stream Team #3760
- ◆ **Benefactor:** The Marske & Page Families
Stream Team #1346
- ◆ **Benefactor:** RHI
- ◆ **Advocacy:** John Bledsoe
Stream Team #5792, #6553
- ◆ **Water Quality Monitoring:** Claire Meyners
Stream Team #2991, #4123
- ◆ **Paddles Up:** Darrell & Scott Blackwell
Jadwin Canoe Rental
Stream Team #4490
- ◆ **Paddles Up:** Stacey Smith
Carr's Canoe Rental

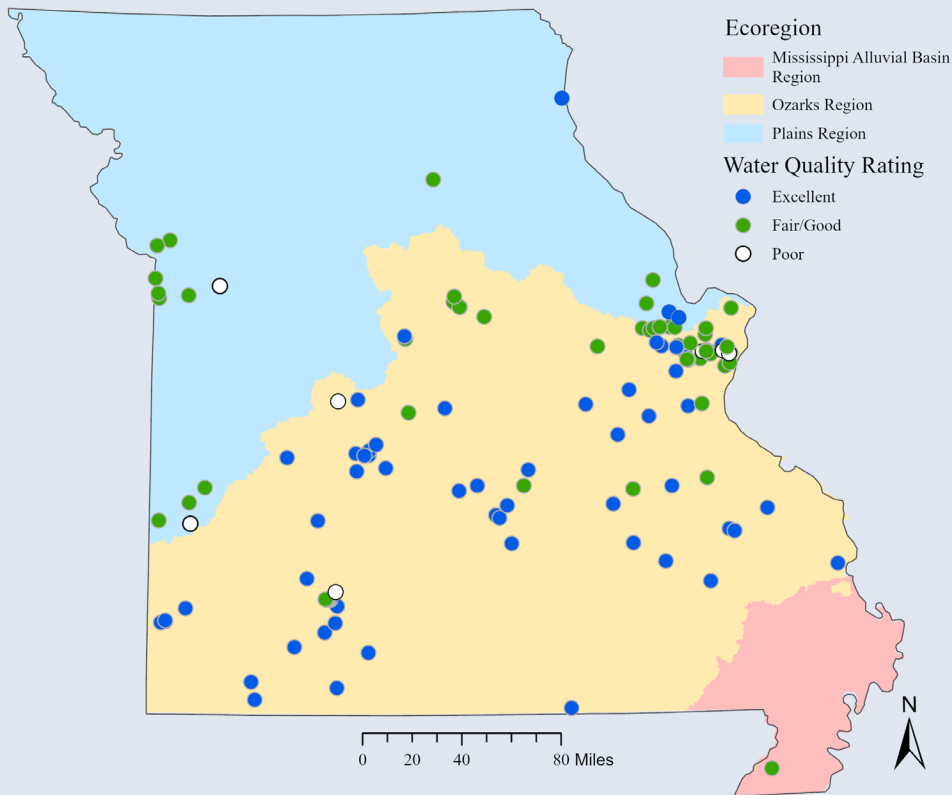


Mark Van Patten, pictured above (left), received the Lifetime Achievement Award this year, for his significant contributions in the name of Missouri streams since Missouri Stream Team began in 1989. Mark is a member of Stream Team #1, the Roubidoux Fly Fishers.

Learn more about how we celebrated our 35th anniversary at the annual Watershed Celebration & Picnic [here](#).

2024 Maximum Water Quality Ratings

Macroinvertebrate Data



Plains Region Water Quality Ratings

Ozark Region Water Quality Ratings

■ Excellent 12.5% (3)
 ■ Fair/Good 79.2% (19)
 ■ Poor 8.3% (2)



■ Excellent 63.5% (61)
 ■ Fair/Good 30.2% (29)
 ■ Poor 6.3% (6)



The highest water quality rating was used from each of the 124 sites sampled in 2024 to minimize seasonal variation. Water quality rating categories were divided into Excellent (ratings over 23), Fair/Good (ratings from 12 to 22), and Poor (ratings lower than 12). Numbers in parenthesis represent the number of sites in that category. All data entered after December 19th, 2024 are not included in this report.

Data stars are water quality volunteers that have completed at least two submissions of macroinvertebrates, discharge, water chemistry, and visual survey as a Level 1 trained volunteer.

In 2024, we had **18** repeat data stars representing **40** different Stream Teams, and **5** brand new data stars! Our staff are incredibly inspired by our volunteers' dedication, and we appreciate the high-quality, long-term data that they continue to gather as a part of our program.

Trained monitors submitted over **840** data sheets in 2024 that totaled over **5,000** hours and **1,830** participants. Our tiered Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring training structure allows flexibility for citizen involvement while increasing education and use of data collected at each level of training. With the hybrid learning format, volunteers are able to learn at their own pace before attending an in-person field training on collection methods.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Field Trainings	Number of Volunteers Trained
Level 1	18	229
Level 2	07	34
Level 3	0	0
Total	25	263



Stream Team #4956 in April of 2024 on Brush Creek in Kansas City, Missouri monitoring water quality.



Stream Team #3585 in October of 2024 on One Hundred and Two River in Saint Joseph, Missouri monitoring water quality.

Show-Me Snails

"Tiny snails that many of us overlook have become the focus of a joint project between the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Missouri Stream Team. The reason? Snails are sensitive to pollutants, which makes them excellent indicators of water quality." - Dianne Van Dien, *Nature Lab, Missouri Conservationist Magazine*

In 2024 alone, **149** snails were submitted as a part of the Show- Me Snails Project. This is the 5th year of the project; in 2025 our team is going to step back to assess how things are going and where to set our aim for the future.



Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Litter Pickups	14,010	69,640	504 tons	\$2,233,357
Educational Projects	1,000	5,744	271 events	\$184,209
Water Quality Monitoring	1,830	5,029	398 trips	\$161,264
Planning Events	487	3,755	189 projects	\$120,407
Habitat Improvement	820	3,258	70 projects	\$104,468
Workshops (attended or conducted)	314	2,662	431 attendees	\$85,370
Display at Fairs, etc.	127	1,046	37 events	\$33,545
Meeting (held/attended)	396	985	898 attendees	\$31,581
Association Activities	142	575	19 events	\$18,448
Watershed Mapping	11	504	10 trips	\$16,147
Planted Trees	97	413	1,303 trees	\$13,229
Advocacy	53	365	57 events	\$11,706
Agency Project Participation	213	271	121 events	\$8,675
Greenway Project	71	248	12 projects	\$7,937
Presentations to Other Groups	109	237	22 presentations	\$7,585
Storm Drain Stenciling	48	140	557 drains	\$4,490
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	9	95	11 projects	\$3,047
Invasive Species Monitoring	36	82	6 trips	\$2,630
Recruitment (new members)	36	64	60 people	\$2,052
Stream Access Maintenance	10	60	2 projects	\$1,924
Stream Bank Stabilization Project	5	31	3 projects	\$994
Forestkeepers	10	30	18 trips	\$962
Articles Written (newspaper, etc.)	6	26	6 articles	\$818
Rain Garden or Green Infrastructure	4	18	4 projects	\$577
Media Contact	14	17	26 interviews	\$537
Riverwatch	2	14	7 projects	\$449
Mentoring	2	5	2 people	\$160
Photopoint Monitoring	4	5	68 photos	\$160
Monofilament Recycling Project	10	4	1.3 ounces	\$128
Grant (applied or received)	1	3	1 project	\$96
Letters (written in support)	1	3	1 letter	\$96
Award Received	1	1	1 award	\$32
*\$32.07/hour is the 2024 Missouri wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (Independent Sector). **Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.				
Totals	19,879	95,325		\$3,057,082



Looking back ...

What we have achieved this year for Missouri's streams and watersheds is nothing short of remarkable! My jaw quite literally dropped when the final 2024 tallies were in.

Whether you are a team of one, a small family or scout troop, or a large organization, one thing is certain – you are making a difference for Missouri. You have answered our call to invite family members, friends, co-workers, and your community members to join the cause this past year, and it shows. Your efforts resulted in the education and engagement of almost **20,000** other Missourians in the care and maintenance of our precious streams in just one year!

Some other impressive accomplishments for 2024: You and the teams you led donated over **95,000** hours to stream team causes in 2024 — that's a **29%** increase from 2023. You and the teams you led removed **504** tons of litter and debris from Missouri watersheds, a **76%** increase from 2023.

We have over 110,000 miles of streams in our beautiful state, which means that every Missourian lives near a stream. Let's keep the momentum going by connecting all Missourians with their local streams and joining the Missouri Stream Team mission in 2025 and beyond!

With much admiration and appreciation,

Rebecca D'Heam

2024 Fast Facts

During 2024, Stream Teams . . .

- ♣ collected **504** tons of trash
- ♣ planted **1,303** trees
- ♣ stenciled **557** storm drains
- ♣ conducted **398** water monitoring trips
- ♣ gave **22** presentations to other groups
- ♣ completed **271** educational events
- ♣ reported **95,325** total volunteer hours

35-Year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ♣ collected **14,573** tons of trash
- ♣ planted **406,723** trees
- ♣ stenciled **22,405** storm drains
- ♣ conducted **35,358** water monitoring trips
- ♣ given **3,783** presentations to other groups
- ♣ completed **6,694** educational events
- ♣ reported **3,525,701** total volunteer hours